

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLOAC) Meeting

Friday, November 2nd 2007, 10:00-3:00

Meeting Attendees: Mary McDonald, Dennis Dart, Chase Davis (via phone), Phil Hess, Mark Hicks, Ken Miller, Maurice Williamson, Jim Matthews, Dave Whipple, Karen Ripley, Terry Coleman

Discussion continued on the Eastside Riparian Strategy... (formerly known as the Imminent Mortality Template). Chase Davis from the Upper Columbia United Tribes feels that alternate plans are a more streamlined approach to deal with a site specific disease/insect riparian area. WDFW and DNR staff explained that the small landowner caucus' top priority was having criteria for riparian stands which identify where riparian restoration would occur faster if a type of management takes place. This criterion would create some guidelines within the alternate plan process for ID teams to follow. Restoration to repair/restore riparian function is the goal with some type of management strategy being method to get there. The alternate plan may involve harvesting in a riparian area that is being affected by some kind of pathogen.

Phil Hess pointed out that the areas that are going to need these treatments/harvests will be small, and that small forest landowners want to maintain a healthy, fire-safe forest on all of their acres, including the RMZ's. Mary noted that only ten alternate plans in riparian areas were done in the last three years in the Southeast Region and the majority dealt with fire restoration. Alternate plans are not a common type of harvest for small landowners. It was suggested that we talk to region foresters and look at alternate plans in the Southeast and Northeast to see if there are similarities regarding forest health and fire.

Discussion as to whether a stand criterion would be better in the form of education outreach or the board manual. Jim Matthews stated that the board manual is used for guidance. If a stand criterion is developed for identifying conditions for managing riparian areas to restore riparian function on the eastside is going to be in the board manual the material will be looked at a lot closer than outreach education.

Dennis Dart suggested that we have more meetings on the eastside of the state to discuss this issue to make it easier for people to participate, and that we use a similar process to contract this that we used to create the alternate plan process.

If anyone has comments regarding the draft guidelines that were sent previously to this meeting, they can send them to Celeste so she can distribute them to the rest of the group.

We did not discuss the "Identifying conditions for managing riparian areas to restore riparian function in Western WA Forests." We will look at this document at the Dec. 7th meeting.

Brainstorming about the idea of an economic advisory continued... The group needed to clarify what it was that we were asking for and the discussion broke into two ideas; a census to gather forest landowner baseline data, and a process to assess the economic impact

proposed policy might have on small forest landowners. The economic assessment would happen when proposals enter policy after they come out of CMER. Many questions remain and the ideas need to be fleshed out more. David Whipple came up with a list of questions to start. Mary will send a list of questions from this meetings discussion and forward them to the economist prior to our next meeting. Anyone wishing to add comments or questions send them to Mary. Our next meeting will be on December 7th in Olympia.